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FEB 10 1953

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

"ALL FARM PRODUCTS" INDEX DROPS 19 POINTS IN STATE

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets dropped 19 points during the month ended January 15. All commodity indexes except meat animals and miscellaneous crops declined during the month. The January 15 "All Farm Products" index of 266 compares with an index of 302 a year ago and an index of 308 on January 15, 1951. (See table on Page 2).

The grains commodity index dropped 4 points due to slightly lower prices for all the grain crops.

A decrease of 1.5 cents per pound for cotton lint and 50 cents per ton for cottonseed caused the cotton and cottonseed index to drop 11 points.

The tobacco index decreased 68 points due to a decrease of 5.5 cents per pound for flue-cured (Type 31) tobacco.

The meat animals index increased 2 points as a result of higher prices for hogs, veal calves and lambs. The price received for beef cattle dropped 50 cents per hundredweight while the price received for sheep was unchanged from the previous month.

The poultry products index decreased 13 points due to lower prices for both chickens and eggs.

Slightly lower wholesale milk and butterfat prices caused the dairy products index to decrease 3 points.

The ratio of prices received by North Carolina farmers to prices paid by U. S. farmers declined 8 points during the month ended January 15.

PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 POINTS PARITY INDEX UP 2 POINTS

The Index of Prices Received by U.S. Farmers declined 2 points (a little less than one percent) during the month ended January 15, 1953, to 267 percent of the 1910-14 average. Lower prices for dairy products, cotton, truck crops, eggs, and grains were only partially offset by higher average prices for hogs, calves, sheep, lambs, potatoes, and some fruits.

During the same period, the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, including interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates rose two points from the revised December level of 280. The Prices Paid component of this index remained unchanged at 267, with the increase in the Parity Index resulting from increases in the

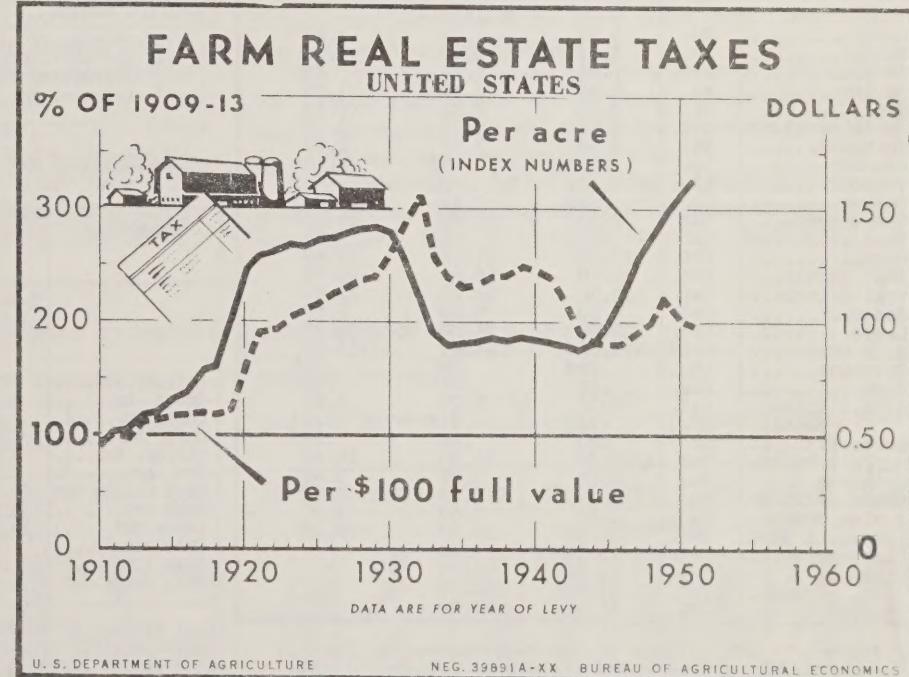
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CHICK HATCHINGS UP

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced an estimated 4,249,000 chicks during December. This was the largest December output of record exceeding the previous record established in 1951 by 11 percent and the 1946-50 average by 134 percent.

Chick production in the State during 1952 at 61,342,000 was 4 percent greater than the 58,890,000 chicks produced a year earlier and the largest annual output of record.

The preliminary estimate of chicks hatched in the United States during 1952 totalled 1,725,347,000 compared with 1,782,944,000 during 1951 -- a decrease of 3 percent. There were 585,042,000 chicks placed in 11 principal broiler producing areas in 1952 -- 6 percent more than in 1951.



Value of farm products sold abroad during the third quarter of 1952 was down nearly a third from a year earlier. Sharpest drops were in wheat and cotton, our main export commodities.

PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 POINTS (Continued)

index of Farm Wage Rates, the index of Interest on Farm Mortgage Debt, and the index of Taxes per Acre on Farm Real Estate.

As a result of the decrease in the Index of Prices Received and the increase in the Parity Index (Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) the Parity Ratio declined to 95, one point below December 15.

FEED-PRICE RATIOS

Effective with this report Local Market Poultry, Feed-Price Ratios will be published each month. These ratios are based on State average prices received for eggs and poultry and State average prices paid for feed. Hence, ratios in a given area may be higher or lower than the ratios for the State as shown in the table below.

LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS JANUARY 15, 1953 WITH COMPARISONS

Poultry Feed-Price Ratio ^{a/}	North Carolina		United States	
	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953
Egg-feed (Laying Mash).....	b/	12.3	11.4	11.3
Farm chicken-feed ^{c/}	b/	5.2	b/	5.7
Broiler-feed (Broiler Mash).....	b/	4.9	b/	5.2
Turkey-feed ^{c/}	b/	8.5	8.5	8.3

a/ Pounds of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs: 1 pound farm chickens: 1 pound broilers: 1 pound turkeys, liveweight.

b/ Not available ^{c/} Poultry Ration.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1953 WITH COMPARISONS

Commodity	Unit	North Carolina		U. S.	
		Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Jan. 15 1953	Jan. 15 1953
- Dollars -					
Corn.....	Bu.	1.73	1.70	1.48	
Wheat.....	Bu.	2.11	2.09	2.10	
Oats.....	Bu.	1.08	1.04	.821	
Barley.....	Bu.	1.50	1.47	1.37	
Rye.....	Bu.	2.52	2.38	1.65	
Grain sorghums	Cwt.	3.15	3.15	2.74	
Soybeans.....	Bu.	2.60	2.57	2.69	
Peanuts.....	Lb.	.114	.112	.109	
Tobacco.....	Lb.	.429	b/ .450	a/ .462	
Cotton.....	Lb.	.335	.32	.297	
Cottonseed.....	Ton	69.50	69.00	65.30	
Wool.....	Lb.	.52	.52	.51	
Hogs.....	Cwt.	17.10	17.80	17.80	
Beef cattle.....	Cwt.	17.00	16.50	19.70	
Veal calves.....	Cwt.	22.30	23.30	23.40	
Sheep.....	Cwt.	8.50	8.50	8.40	
Lambs.....	Cwt.	23.60	24.50	20.30	
Milk cows.....	Head	155.00	157.00	213.00	
Chickens.....	Lb.	.266	.266	.285	
Eggs.....	Doz.	.55	.55	.458	
Milk, whole.....	Cwt.	6.25	c/ 6.20	4.89	
Retail.....	Qt.	.219	.216	.211	
Butterfat.....	Lb.	.60	.56	.683	
Hay, all baled.....	Ton	4/32.90	33.30	26.40	
Potatoes.....	Bu.	2.85	2.85	2.06	
Sweet potatoes.....	Bu.	3.40	3.50	3.86	
Apples, comm.....	Bu.	2.60	2.60	3.21	
Lespedeza seed.....	Cwt.	17.20	19.60	18.10	
Korean.....	Cwt.	15.80	17.90	-	
Kobe.....	Cwt.	18.50	21.00	-	
Com. & Tenn.....	Cwt.	21.00	23.00	-	
Sericea.....	Cwt.	21.00	24.00	-	

a/ Types 11-37, b/ Type 31, c/ Preliminary, d/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds including an allowance for minor kinds.

FEED PRICES

Prices of most feeds purchased by North Carolina farmers, except mixed dairy feeds, declined or remained unchanged for the month ended January 15.

All mixed dairy feed prices increased from 5 to 10 cents per hundredweight except the 29% protein content feed which was unchanged from the previous month.

Compared with the same period a year ago, current prices paid for mixed dairy feeds averaged 5 cents less than the 1951 prices paid. However, soybean and cottonseed meal were up 20 cents while the price of meat scrap was 50 cents below last year's quotation. Corn meal, bran and middlings were 5 cents below last year's price, while laying mash and scratch grain prices were the same as those paid in January 1952.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JAN. 15, 1953 WITH COMPARISONS

Feed Per Hundredweight	North Carolina		United States	
	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953
- Dollars -				
Mixed Dairy Feed Under 29% protein				
All.....	4.30	4.35	4.38	4.37
18% protein.....	4.10	4.15	4.27	4.26
18% protein.....	4.20	4.30	4.42	4.37
20% protein.....	4.55	4.60	4.54	4.52
24% protein.....	4.60	4.65	4.85	4.84
29% protein.....	5.40	5.40	5.39	5.32
High Protein Feeds				
Linseed meal.....	-	-	5.42	5.42
Soybean meal.....	a/ 5.30	5.20	5.34	5.09
Cottonseed meal..	a/ 4.60	4.60	5.19	5.14
Meat scrap.....	6.40	6.10	6.31	6.07
Grain By-Products				
Bran.....	4.10	4.10	3.69	3.66
Middlings.....	4.25	4.20	3.82	3.74
Corn meal.....	4.75	4.75	4.04	3.99
Corn gluten.....	-	-	4.23	4.24
Poultry Feed				
Laying mash.....	5.40	5.40	5.16	5.12
Scratch grain....	4.65	4.65	4.50	4.50
Broiler growing mash.....	b/	5.50	b/	5.46
Poultry ration...	c/ 4.41	4.48	4.22	4.06

a/ Average of all quotations with varying percent protein.

b/ Not available prior to Jan. 15, 1953.

c/ Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

Commodity	Prices Received By Farmers		Parity or Comparable Prices		Average Prices As Percentage Of Parity	
	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953
- Dollars -						
Cotton, lb.....	.3171	.299	.341	.342	93	87
Wheat, bu.....	2.12	2.10	2.43	2.44	87	86
Corn, bu.....	1.50	1.48	1.77	1.77	85	84
Oats, bu.....	.842	.821	.935	a/ .894	90	92
Barley, bu.....	1.41	1.37	1.44	1.38	98	99
Rye, bu.....	1.73	1.65	1.65	1.71	105	-
Beef Cattle, cwt	19.70	19.70	20.70	21.40	95	92
Hogs, cwt.....	16.00	17.80	21.00	20.60	76	86
Lambs, cwt.....	19.50	20.30	22.70	23.10	86	88
Chickens, lb....	.264	.265	.318	.310	83	85
Eggs, doz.....	.466	.458	.502	a/ .474	79	d/ 1014/
Milk, whse, cwt.	5.11 a/	4.89 b/	4.72	4.74	99	d/ 974/

a/ Revised b/ Preliminary c/ Transitional parity 80% (85 percent during 1952) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to Jan. 1, 1950. d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

TO ALL PRICE REPORTERS

The basic information contained in this report comes primarily from summaries of schedules submitted by Prices Received and Prices Paid Reporters. We are constantly striving to improve both the scope and detail of information on prices received and paid by North Carolina farmers. In order to do this effectively, we need the full cooperation of all price reporters. By full cooperation is meant returning your schedule promptly and reporting each month throughout the year.

1952 PRODUCTION OF CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES
ABOVE AVERAGE

The 1952 production of certified seed potatoes was 42,755,620 bushels, according to information received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from certifying agencies in 30 States. This is 17 percent larger than the 1951 production of 36,630,815 bushels and 16 percent above the 1941-50 average of 36,722,400 bushels but is 16 percent smaller than the record 1950 production of 51,071,441 bushels.

The increase in the 1952 production over 1951 was due entirely to the larger acreage in 1952. The yield of 321 bushels per acre in 1952, although above the average of 262 bushels, was smaller than the 1951 yield of 333 bushels. Total acreage of certified potatoes harvested in 1952, at 133,140 acres, was 21 percent larger than the 109,995 acres in 1951, but 5 percent below the 10-year average of 140,245 acres.

For the sixth consecutive year Katahdin, with a production of 12,901,183 bushels, led all other varieties. It was followed in this order by Russet Burbank with 4,989,950 bushels; Cobbler 4,821,386; Red Pontiac 3,670,554; Triumph 3,552,861; White Rose 2,963,343; Kennebec 2,581,587; Green Mountain 1,292,645; Ontario 1,154,628; and Chippewa, 1,133,626 bushels. The production of these 10 varieties accounted for 39,061,763 bushels, 91 percent of the total production of certified seed potatoes in 1952.

Production of other varieties in bushels was as follows: Sebago 633,924; Pontiac 507,823; Russet Rural 432,610; Red Warba 306,625; Cherokee 256,272; Russet Sebago 236,900; Red McClure 225,160; Teton 205,367; Progress 204,049; Early Ohio 155,613; La Soda 83,529; Sequoia 64,535; Rural New Yorker 63,184; Burbank 61,850; Houma 39,775; Essex 39,218; Waseca 37,166; De Soto 12,725; White Cloud 9,830; Yampa 7,485; Mohawk 7,174; Placid 5,460; Early Rose 4,200; Kasota 3,850; Setapa 3,300; Beauty of Hebron 1,200; and all other classified and unclassified varieties 85,033 bushels.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 - 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	Dec. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1953	Jan. 15 1952	Jan. 15 1951	Jan. 15 1950
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
All farm products	285	266	302	308	218
Cotton & cottonseed	268	257	319	346	214
Grains.....	196	192	199	192	163
Meat animals.....	327	329	418	411	317
Poultry.....	290	267	265	271	190
Dairy products.....	256	253	247	242	223
Tobacco.....	360	292	318	-	256
Miscellaneous.....	300	302	283	235	232
Ratio of prices received to paid a	102 b/	94	105	113	88
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
Prices received....	269	267	300	300	235
Prices paid					
Interest & taxes..	280 b/	282	287	272	249
Ratio of prices Received to paid..	96	95	105	110	94

a/ Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

b/ Revised.

APPLE, PEAR AND PECAN PRODUCTION UP IN 1952

Commercial apple production in North Carolina in 1952 is estimated at 2,053,000 bushels - the largest crop produced in the State since records were begun in 1934. The 1952 crop exceeds 1951 production by 62 percent.

Total value of the 1952 crop is placed at \$4,517,000 -- more than twice the value of the 1951 crop estimated at \$2,221,000.

The 1,648,000 bushel peach crop harvested in 1952 represents a decline of 9 percent from the 1,806,000 bushels produced a year earlier. However, the value of the 1952 crop is placed at \$4,285,000 -- up 28 percent from 1951.

Pear production in 1952 at 172,000 bushels exceeds the 154,000 bushels produced in 1951 by 12 percent and was the largest crop produced in the State since 1948. The value of the crop is placed at \$327,000.

The 1952 Tar Heel grape crop estimated at 2,700 tons was 16 percent smaller than the 1951 crop and the smallest of record for the State. Total production is valued at \$432,000, up 8 percent from the preceding year.

Pecan production in 1952 totalled 2,546,000 pounds -- almost 5 percent more than the 2,435,000 pounds produced a year earlier. The 1952 crop is valued at \$626,000.

NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTION, FARM DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF FRUITS AND NUTS - 1951, 1952

Crop	Unit	Production		Farm Disposition		Seasons Ave. Price		Value			
				For farm Household Use	Sold	Rec'd by Farmers	Production	For household use	For Sales		
		1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
- Thousands -											
Apples.....	Bu.	1,269	2,053	330	320	939	1,733	1.5	2.20	2,221	4,517
Peaches.....	Bu.	1,806	1,648	360	360	1,446	1,288	1.85	2.60	3,341	4,285
Pears.....	Bu.	154	172	126	130	28	42	1.80	1.90	277	327
Grapes.....	Tons	3.2	2.7	1.9	1.8	1.3	.9	125.00	160.00	400	432
Pecans(all).....	Lbs.	2,435	2,546	780	780	1,655	1,766	.245	.247	595	626
Improved.....	Lbs.	2,190	2,340	660	680	1,530	1,660	.250	.250	548	585
Seedling.....	Lbs.	245	206	120	100	125	106	.190	.200	47	41
- Dollars -											
								Thousands of Dollars -			
Apples.....	Bu.	1,269	2,053	330	320	939	1,733	1.5	2.20	2,221	4,517
Peaches.....	Bu.	1,806	1,648	360	360	1,446	1,288	1.85	2.60	3,341	4,285
Pears.....	Bu.	154	172	126	130	28	42	1.80	1.90	277	327
Grapes.....	Tons	3.2	2.7	1.9	1.8	1.3	.9	125.00	160.00	400	432
Pecans(all).....	Lbs.	2,435	2,546	780	780	1,655	1,766	.245	.247	595	626
Improved.....	Lbs.	2,190	2,340	660	680	1,530	1,660	.250	.250	548	585
Seedling.....	Lbs.	245	206	120	100	125	106	.190	.200	47	41

FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

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1952 HONEY PRODUCTION 18 PERCENT BELOW 1951

Honey production in North Carolina in 1952 totaled 5,292,000 pounds, 18 percent less than the 1951 crop of 6,426,000 pounds. The State's 1952 honey crop was almost double the 1950 crop of 2,775,000 pounds.

The average honey production per colony was 28 pounds compared with 34 pounds in 1951 and 15 pounds in 1950. The 1952 honey crop was produced by 189,000 colonies of bees, the same as 1951, and compares with 189,000 colonies in 1950.

Prices received by N. C. beekeepers for all honey, both retail and wholesale, averaged 31.6 cents per pound in 1952 and 29.8 cents in 1951. Value of honey production in the State totaled \$1,672,000 in 1952 and \$1,915,000 in 1951.

The average price received for beeswax was 42 cents in 1952 and 48 cents in 1951. Beeswax production was valued at \$49,000 in 1952 and \$62,000 in 1951.

Estimated stocks of honey on hand for sale by producers in mid-December totaled 900,000 pounds, or 17 percent of the 1952 production. This compares with 1,221,000 pounds on hand for sale on December 15, 1951.

Honey production in the United States totaled 272,771,000 pounds, 6 percent more than 1951 and 23 percent above the 1946-50 average. The 1952 honey crop was produced by 5,508,000 colonies of bees, one percent less than in 1951. Total U. S. beeswax production was 4,825,000 pounds in 1952 compared with 4,705,000 pounds in 1951.

The U. S. average price for all honey was 16.2 cents per pound in 1952 and 16.0 cents in 1951.

State	Number Colonies of Bees 1952	Honey Produc- tion Per Colony	HONEY PRODUCTION, 1951-1952**	
			1951	1952
N. C.	(000)	(Pounds)	(1,000 Pounds)	
Del.	189	28	6,426	5,292
Md.	3	22	90	66
Va.	29	26	725	754
W. Va.	151	28	4,553	4,228
S. C.	127	19	2,460	2,413
Ga.	58	16	986	928
Fla.	215	26	5,160	5,590
	227	75	17,876	17,025

* 1951 Revised, 1952 Preliminary

Demand for farm products continues strong in this country but export demand has dropped sharply.

Prospects for increased supplies and slightly smaller consumption of cotton, and the decline in prices of some foreign growths are reasons for expecting smaller exports of cotton during the current marketing season.

SMALLER TURKEY CROP IN PROSPECT FOR 1953

North Carolina's turkey crop will be cut by 5 percent from last year for the 1953 season if growers' intentions of January 1 are carried out.

A crop of 967,000 turkeys was indicated as of January 1, compared with the all-time record of 1,018,000 raised last year.

Turkey production in North Carolina has almost doubled during the past three years. In 1950, only 559,000 turkeys were raised -- followed by a crop of 783,000 in 1951. The average for the five years from 1945 through 1949 was 404,000.

Across the Nation, growers' reported intentions indicate a cut of 8 percent from last year -- or a crop of 54,069,000 turkeys compared with 58,956,000 produced last year.

COMPARISON OF TURKEYS RAISED 1951-1952 WITH GROWERS INTENTIONS FOR 1953

STATE AND DIVISION	Average 1945-49	1950	TURKEYS RAISED		Intended in 1953 Number	% of 1952
			1951	Preliminary 1952		
- Thousands -						
N. C.....	404	559	783	1,018	967	95
Md.....	418	438	460	529	513	97
Va.....	1,368	2,294	3,670	5,945	4,756	80
W. Va.....	486	887	1,064	1,330	1,104	83
Del.....	106	124	143	186	205	110
S. C.....	471	771	1,002	1,252	1,102	88
Ga.....	209	316	569	615	430	70
Fla.....	115	131	151	163	179	110
S. Atl.....	3,578	5,520	7,842	11,038	9,256	84
N. Atl.....	3,463	3,899	4,307	5,199	4,743	91
E. N. Cent.	4,493	5,368	6,050	7,072	7,096	100
W. N. Cent.	10,226	11,095	12,290	12,520	12,934	103
S. Cent....	4,352	4,749	5,446	5,952	5,434	91
West.....	11,853	13,161	16,317	17,175	14,606	85
U. S.....	37,965	43,792	52,252	58,956	54,069	92